

Gentlemen.

I am a Signal Officer in the US Army, a FCC Commercial license holder, a MARS operator and an Amateur radio operator. I send and receive code at 44 wpm.

Rescind the Morse code requirement for all but the Amateur Extra freqs.

Rescinding the Morse Code requirement for all but the Amateur Extra class is a good idea for all involved. Technology and the world is quickly changing and I know that some of the older operators swear that Morse code is required but they are wrong. As we speak, most of the world is relaxing the Morse code standard for the simple fact that it is no longer required in order to conduct emergency operations - the primary reason that Morse was tested decades ago for amateurs.

Don't let some misguided amateurs that are trying to restrict other hams in the name of "historical significance" stand in the way of new hams that want to enjoy this hobby. They do not care about history - they just do not want more hams on "their" airwaves.

If you lift the restrictions you will get thousands of hams instantly interested in the hobby that can currently can get no further simply for the fact they cannot learn/master a code that is no longer used. It will also help industry which will sell many new operating rigs to the public, and it will bring fresh blood and life into this hobby.

Do away with the code requirement - its time has exceeded its usefulness.

Sammy Smith
Signal Officer
US Army